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# THE TRIPOLI POST

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## Pakistan Pleads for Aid as Plight of Displaced Pakistanis Grows

Pakistan appealed Thursday for millions of dollars of urgent aid to relieve the growing crisis posed by the displacement of 1.5 million people who fled its blistering offensive against the Taliban, an opposition group in the country.

The United Nations launched a formal appeal on Friday to raise what Pakistan hopes will be half a billion dollars after tens of thousands of people flooded into camps with hundreds of thousands more staying elsewhere.

"There is an urgent need for a joint and comprehensive response to this issue by all those who are committed to fighting terrorism," Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told a meeting of international donors and quoted by AFP.

"We have to win the hearts and minds of the people. We need to do something concrete and visible," Gilani said.

As the conflict ploughs on with no end in sight, concerns are mounting about how to cope with the displaced, uprooted in what rights groups have called Pakistan's biggest movement of people since partition from India in 1947.

The United Nations said around 1.5 million people left their homes this month and registered with authorities, joining about 550,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who fled previous bouts of fighting in the northwest.

The military ordered the offensive last month under US pressure to crush militants in the northwest, which Washington said threatened the existence of the Muslim country and posed the greatest terror threat to the West.

A senior US military official based in Islamabad said the crisis could last until December because authorities expect large numbers of displaced people to remain at temporary camps to the end of the year.

Pakistan's military says up to 15,000 troops are taking on 4,000 well-armed fighters in Swat, where Islamabad has ordered a battle to eradicate militants who advanced to within 100 kilometres (60 miles) of the Pakistani capital. The military says more than 1,050 militants and more than 60 soldiers have been killed since forces launched the offensive, but it has not been possible to confirm either that toll or civilian casualties independently.



Pakistani displaced civilians clamour for relief at the Chhota Lahore camp in Swabi district, northwest of Islamabad. Pakistan has appealed for millions of dollars of urgent aid to relieve the growing crisis posed by the displacement of 1.5 million people who fled its blistering offensive against the Taliban. (AFP)

## General Ward Assures Leader Africom to Stay Out of Africa

The President of the African Union Muammar Al-Qadhafi received on Thursday the Commander of the US Africa Command General William Ward during a visit to Tripoli. General Ward informed Al-Qadhafi that the US assures him

that it would not position any military command on African soil and no American military presence in the continent, the Libyan news agency JANA reported on Thursday.

Jana also reported that General Ward assured the AU

President the Africom would stay outside Africa.

General Ward informed Al-Qadhafi America's desire to see cooperation in the fields of training, information, humanitarian aid between Africom and the AU.

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# Leader Meets French Defense Minister

The Leader of the Revolution and President of the AU held talks last week with French Minister of Defense Herve Morin along with his accompanying delegation who participated in the 5+5 Defense Ministers' meeting held on 17 May 2009.

Morin delivered a letter to the Leader from the French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Sarkozy, the Libyan news agency reported, expressed his desire to meet the leader at the next summit of G8 which he asserted that it would be an opportunity to

pursue their talks about various issues of mutual interest.

The French president underlined in his letter his keen interest to continue dialogue with the Leader on African matters, highlighting that the leader's Presidency of the African Union consolidates such dialogue.

President Sarkozy reiterated France's interest to launch the French-Libyan Strategic Partnership in the defense field in line with what was agreed upon during his visit to Libya and the Leader's visit to France in 2007.

Sarkozy praised the letter in his letter for his efforts to forge peace between Niger rebels and their government which brought stability to northern Niger.

Jana reported that Sarkozy appealed to the leader to continue his efforts to overcome ongoing tension between Sudan and Chad.

Sarkozy also reaffirmed his and France's readiness to support Libyan initiative to protect the economic zone of territorial waters of Somalia since that would help in ending the so-called piracy operations there, Jana reported.

# UN-AU Call for Peace Along Border

The United Nations-African Union operation has joined a growing chorus calling for an end to a recent surge in violence along the volatile Chad-Sudan border.

Rodolphe Adada, UN-AU joint special representative, issued a statement calling on leaders in Chad and Sudan to end the violence along the two countries' border, which has added increased pressure on the already fragile internally displaced persons and refugee camps in the region, the United Nations reported.

Adada said violence will not solve the rebel tensions in the region and that opening a dialogue is critical.

According to a news release, the UN-AU mission called on governments in the region to "refrain from any act that may lead to a further escalation of tensions, which could exacerbate the suffering of Darfur's (Sudan) civilians, particularly the many internally displaced persons and refugees in the region."

suspended by the 53-member bloc following a political crisis that erupted earlier this year.

In a decision on March 20, the pan-African body said what happened in March constituted "unconstitutional change of government," referring to the forced resignation of Ravalomanana.

Ethiopia, Libya and Mauritius have offered to host the summit in place of Madagascar. Rajoelina visited Libya last week and met the Leader of the Revolution in Tripoli.

the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa," the A.U. said in a statement.

Heads of states and governments will discuss agricultural investment during the body's 13th ordinary summit, it added.

Madagascar has been mired in political crisis since weeks of protests saw army-backed opposition chief Andry Rajoelina topple Marc Ravalomanana as president in March. Madagascar was to host the AU's second biannual meeting, but was

# African Union to Hold Summit in Sirte in July

The African Union will hold its next summit in Sirte, Libya, on July 1-3, the organization announced Tuesday.

The theme of the 13th AU summit is "Investing in agriculture for economic growth and food security".

Prior to the summit, there will be a meeting of the PRC from June 24 to 26 and a meeting of the Executive Council of the AU from June 28 to 30.

"The decision was taken Monday during the meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) at

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## Embassy of Romania Announcement

Ambasada Romaniei la Tripoli invita cetatenii romani cu drept de vot prezenti în Libia sa participe la alegerile nationale pentru Parlamentul European. Centrul de votare va fi deschis, la data de 07.06.2009, în sediul Ambasadei din strada Ali Bin Talib, Ben Ashour, între orele 07.00-21.00. Informatii suplimentare la tel. (021) 3615295/3612912.

The Embassy of Romania in Tripoli invites all the Romanian nationals who has the right to vote present in Libya to participate at the national election for European Parliament. A voting centre will be open, on 07.06.2009, from 07.00 to 21.00, at the Embassy, Ali Bin Talib St., Ben Ashour Area. Tel. (021) 3615295/ 3612912.

تدعو سفارة رومانيا بطرابلس كافة المواطنين الرومانيين المتواجدين على الاراضي الليبية والذين لهم حق التصويت في الانتخابات الوطنية للبرلمان الأوروبي، وسوف يفتح مركز التصويت بمقر السفارة الواقع بشارع علي بن أبي طالب منطقة بن عاشور من الساعة 07:00 - 21:00 بتاريخ 2009/06/07

يمكنكم الإتصال على الأرقام التالية: 0213615295 - 3612912



# Saif Al-Islam Holds Talks with Algerian President

President Abdel-Aziz Butaflika of Algeria met on Wednesday at the presidential palace in Algiers Saif Al-Islam Muammar Al-Qadhafi, President of Gaddafi International Charity and Development who was on a visit to Algeria.

President Butaflika also hosted a lunch banquet in honor of Saif Al-Islam which was attended by top Algerian officials including the Chairman of the Algerian National Assembly Abdel-Aziz Ben Saleh, Head of National People's Council Abdel-Aziz Zayari, Minister of State and Personal Representative of the president Abdel-Aziz Belkhadem, Minister of National Defense Abdel Malik Qanayziya and Chief of Staff of Algerian People's Army.

During his visit, Saif Al-Islam toured the central military base at Bleida city as well as other landmarks of Algeria.



Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi

# GPC Holds Meeting on Investing in Oil, Gas Industry

The General People's Committee held last week an extraordinary meeting devoted to discuss implementing steps of the expansion plan of oil and gas sector for the years from 2009 to 2013.

The GPC reviewed actual budget according to the expansion plan and a general summary of such plan.

Both the Chairman of the National Oil Corp. Shukri Ghanem and a team of

experts in the field outlined the new strategy as well as the objectives and the funds needed for its implementation.

According to Ghanem, the new investments are to help the country increase its oil output to 2.3 million barrel per day.

The participants at the discussions underlined the need to speed up the funding of the plan.



Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Musa Kussa welcomes Chad's FM as he arrived in Tripoli last week.

# Libya Coordinates Efforts to Lessen Tension between Sudan, Chad

Secretary of the GPC for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Musa Kussa welcomes the Chadian Minister of Foreign Affairs and accompanying delegation that arrived in Libya last Wednesday.

Also the Secretary General of the CEN-SAD Community, Mr. Mohammad Al-Azahari welcomed the Chadian minister at Ma'aitiqa airport in Tripoli.

Libya is currently helping both Chad and Sudan to solve their differences and it has been urged to do so by the world community.

Libya has always been a peace broker in the conflict between these two African countries.

Libya hopes to ease the current tension between Sudan and Chad and restore confidence and relations between the two neighboring countries, a Libyan official said.

Libyan Secretary of African Affairs Ali Traiki visited Khartoum where he delivered a message to the Sudanese President from the Leader about the ongoing tension between Sudan and Chad.

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# UNHCR Pressures Italy on Migrant Policy

The head of the UN refugee agency wants the European Commission to organise talks on Italy's controversial policy of sending back illegal immigrants to Libya, a UN spokesman said Wednesday.

High Commissioner Antonio Guterres wanted Italy, Malta, Libya and the UNHCR itself to discuss how to handle the steady stream of migrants making the perilous Mediterranean crossing, said spokesman Ron Redmond.

The agency wanted to find "a more satisfactory response" to the problem "following Italy's recent 'push-backs' to Libya," said a UNHCR statement.

The UNHCR recognized the pressure on Italy and other EU countries, the statement added.

Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni and Libyan officials on Tuesday discussed how to stem the flow of illegal immigrants to Europe.

Maroni met Libyan Secretary of Public Security Abdelfattah al-Obeidi for follow-up talks centring on a 2008 agreement between the two countries to combat illegal immigration from the north African nation.

The agreement "opens up new perspectives" for Libya and Italy and Rome is ready to help Tripoli stem the flow of illegal migrants to Europe.

"At the same time, UNHCR believes fundamental principles are at stake and

that these principles ought to guide the response to such movements."

On May 12, the UNHCR wrote to the Italian government expressing concern that its new policy of sending refugees intercepted by its patrol boats back to Libya undermined its legal obligation to provide asylum to refugees.

That letter followed a diplomatic row between Italy and Malta after a Maltese patrol boat with 66 rescued illegal immigrants was refused entry to the southern Italian island of Lampedusa.

Italian ministers have already rejected criticism of the new policy from human rights groups and aid agencies such as Human Rights Watch and Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF, Doctors Without Borders).

The Vatican has also expressed its concern at the new policy.

Both Malta and Italy are grappling with a sharp spike in illegal immigration from outside the European Union, with 36,900 arriving in Italy last year -- a 75 percent increase from 2007.

Malta, whose population is about 400,000, saw a record 2,775 would-be immigrants landing in 2008.

Italy's holding centres for immigrants are like "concentration camps", Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said, adding it was more humane to send migrant boats back to Libya than let them enter Italy.

Berlusconi's government has drawn



Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni during a meeting with Libyan officials in Tripoli

strong criticism from the United Nations and human rights groups for its new policy of diverting migrants intercepted at sea back to Libya.

"I think it is much easier ... to examine

individual situations in the country, of origin, otherwise they come here and go to a camp which, I should not be saying this, is very similar to a concentration camp," Berlusconi told reporters.



An aerial view shows an immigration centre burning after asylum seekers set fire to it after a failed escape attempt on the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa in this February 18, 2009 file photo. Italy's holding centres for immigrants are like "concentration camps", Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said on May 19, 2009, adding it was more humane to send migrant boats back to Libya than let them enter Italy. Berlusconi's government has drawn strong criticism from the United Nations and human rights groups for its new policy of diverting migrants intercepted at sea back to Libya.

## 3 US Soldiers Killed in Iraq

Bombers struck in Baghdad and a northern city Thursday, killing three American soldiers and nearly two dozen Iraqis in a new spasm of violence that has taken at least 66 lives in two days.

A spate of attacks since April seems aimed at stoking sectarian tension and undermining public confidence only weeks before U.S. combat troops are due to leave Baghdad and other cities, handing security responsibility to Iraq's security forces.

Although recent violence has not risen to levels of two years ago, it has fueled public unease over whether Iraq's

army and police can maintain the security gains since the 2007 U.S. troop surge.

Most of the attacks this year have been on Shiite targets, suggesting that al-Qaida and other Sunni Arab extremists are trying to rekindle sectarian fighting and undermine Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki within his core Shiite constituency.

Attacks have accelerated since the Shiite-led government began cracking down on Sunni paramilitary groups that abandoned the insurgency and joined forces with the U.S. to augment security.

# Egyptian Tycoon to Hang in Slaying of Lebanese Singer

Suzanne Tamim shot to fame in an "American Idol"-style TV show, a green-eyed Lebanese beauty whose pop songs about love's agony mirrored her troubled life.

Now, the man reported to be her secret lover — a married, politically powerful Egyptian tycoon — has been sentenced to hang for paying a former government security agent \$2 million to slit her throat, a murder almost as clumsy as it was horrific.

Billionaire Hisham Talaat Moustafa showed no emotion Thursday as he was convicted and sentenced for ordering the killing of Tamim — the latest chapter in the sordid tale of sex, power, money and murder that was closely followed throughout the Middle East.

Many had wondered if the 50-year-old real estate mogul tied to President Hosni Mubarak's son, Gamal, and an influential member of the ruling party, would get away with murder in a region where the rich are often thought to be above the law.

Befitting the drama, the courtroom erupted in chaos after the conviction and sentencing of Moustafa and the former government security officer, Mohsen el-Sukkary, who also faces the gallows. Pandemonium broke out as police and Moustafa's relatives clashed with reporters scrambling to talk to him. Moustafa's sister fainted and his two daughters burst into tears.

Tamim rose to stardom after appearing in an Arab talent show similar to "American Idol" in 1996, appealing to Mideast audiences with her sultry dancing, cascading chestnut hair and melodramatic crooning. Typical of her songs was one from 2003 that spoke of the pain of lovers forced to separate.

She soon fell upon troubled times, separating from her Lebanese husband-manager who filed a series of lawsuits against her. She fled problems at home, seeking solace in Egypt.

Tamim and Moustafa met in the summer of 2004 at a Red Sea resort, according to transcripts of Moustafa's interrogation that were widely published in Egyptian newspapers.

El-Sukkary, the former security officer, said in the transcripts in the trial that Moustafa was "always with Tamim," that he kept a hotel suite for her, and that he took her around in his private jet.

Moustafa said they fell in love and that he wanted to marry her in 2006 but then retreated, allegedly over his mother's objections, and they broke up.

Tamim left Egypt, moved to London and hooked up with a kick-boxer. His lawyer said Tamim still felt threatened by the jealous tycoon, and she eventually ended up in Dubai.

Moustafa turned to el-Sukkary, who worked at his Cairo's Four Seasons Hotel. The prosecutor said the tycoon helped facilitate visas and tickets for el-Sukkary as he trailed the singer first to London, then to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in order to kill her.

Transcripts of alleged phone conversations kept by el-Sukkary and seized by police have Moustafa telling him, "The agreed amount is ready," and "Tomorrow, she is in London and you should act," a senior police official confirmed to The Associated Press.

In a later tape, el-Sukkary explains he missed his chance in London and "will wait to move it to Dubai." Moustafa chides him and then says, "OK, let's finish with this." At another point, el-Sukkary quoted Moustafa in the transcripts as saying: "I want you to throw her off the balcony, like Souad Hosni" — a reference to a movie star who lived in London and mysteriously fell off a balcony in 2001.

According to Dubai investigators, el-Sukkary stalked Tamim on the morning of July 28, 2008, to her apartment in the swanky Dubai Marina complex, overlooking a harbor full of yachts. From the lobby, he rang her video intercom, showing her an ID of the management company from which she had recently bought the apartment. She buzzed him in, police said.

Once inside, he attacked her repeatedly with a knife. Police found her body in a pool of blood, with multiple stab wounds and an 8-inch slash across her throat.

He then shed his overalls and cap,

dumping them in a trash bin outside the building, officials said. The bloody clothes were found by police and tested positive for Tamim's DNA. Police say the killer's face also appeared on security camera video.

"It took 12 minutes for the murderer to enter the building, kill the victim and leave," Maj. Gen. Khamis Mattar Al Mazeina of the Dubai police said.

Leaked images of Tamim's dead body dominated headlines across the Middle East, and political overtones crept into the grisly crime.

El-Sukkary was arrested Aug. 6 in Egypt. Dubai police traveled to Cairo to present their evidence against him but then turned their attention to Moustafa.

Egypt declined to extradite Moustafa to the United Arab Emirates, insisting he be tried at home. That move was initially read by many Egyptians as opening the door for a slap on the wrist for Moustafa, who built a real estate empire of luxury hotels and resorts and was a leading force behind the pricey Western-style suburbs that ring Cairo.

As details of the crime hit the newsstands, the judge imposed a gag order and closed most of the 27 trial sessions to the public. Fueling

the intrigue were Moustafa's ties to Gamal Mubarak, who is often touted to succeed his father as president. Moustafa, a member of parliament's upper house, the Shura Council, was also a member the ruling party's policies committee, which the younger Mubarak chairs.

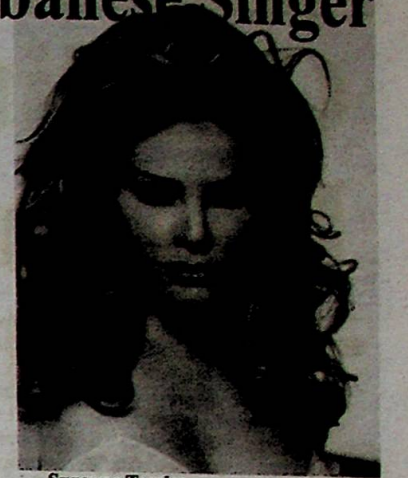
For those reasons, Moustafa's conviction was all the more stunning to Egyptians.

The sentences still must be certified by the government's top religious official, the Grand Mufti. The defendants can appeal the ruling within 60 days of the mufti's decision effectively after June 25, a date set by the judge.

From his cell in one of Egypt's largest prisons, Moustafa wrote a letter last year that seemed to foretell his fate.

"Knives have been sharpened, tearing at my flesh," he wrote in the letter, published in September in an Egyptian newspaper. But "these lies will not be able to move the great pyramids I have constructed in the Egyptian economy."

And in an eerie footnote, a video of Tamim's song "Nawyahalou," — "I Will Get My Own Back" — was released after her death. In the video, Tamim is shown preparing



Suzanne Tamim

a meal while waving a large knife in the air as a man spies on her through a window from another building.

She sings, "I will not shut up and will always be after him, in his fantasy and dream. I will be there with him and I will never let his eye sleep, I will make his heart soar." AFP

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**Company Job Code:** A013-ESG-Associate Accountant

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# Quality in Health Care is Urgently Needed in Libya

By Sami Zaptia

Libya's General Peoples Committee (GPC) for Health released a report in February this year highlighting some vital statistics for the health sector, according to the Pan African News Agency.

It reported that Libya has 10,230 doctors of which 8,612 (84%) were Libyan and 1,618 (16%) were foreign. This statistic meant that Libya has 17 doctors for every 10,000 citizens.

The report also indicated that Libya has 96 hospitals, with 20,289 beds, with 25 specialised units which had 5,970 beds, as well as 1,355 Basic Health Centres, 37 clinics and 17 quarantine units.

However, while on the face of it, these statistics may sound good, the reality of Libya's health sector to those who know it is far from it.

In fact the GPC for Health's website - [www.health.gov.ly](http://www.health.gov.ly) - carries an attachment of a United Nations World Health Organisation (WHO) 2007 report on the Libyan health sector which is very critical.

The report which engages in a detailed analyses of Libya's health sector informs that 'in

comparison to its MENA (Middle East North Africa) peers, Libya spends much less on health care as a % of GDP - about 3.3% - but a similar amount in absolute terms. When adjusted for purchasing power differences across countries, Libya spends only USD 222 per person per annum'.

It goes on to reveal that 'the Government spends 60 million Libyan dinars (LD) annually for medical treatment of Libyan citizens abroad'.

More is spent out-of-pocket (privately) by Libyans traveling for treatment to Arab countries and Europe'.

'Despite guaranteed free medical care in the public sector, Libyans are opting to purchase private medical care, in order to receive a higher level of service. This money is spent in two main areas.

There is a small but growing private health care sector in Libya. This mostly provides primary and basic secondary care through 431 outpatient clinics and 84 inpatient clinics, with the bed capacity of 1361'.

However, the report concludes that this 'small but growing (Libyan) private health sector continues to be hampered by the lack of an overall policy approach to the sector from the

health authorities.'

Moreover, the report reveals that 'for more serious procedures, Libyans travel abroad for treatment in Tunisia, Jordan, and Egypt or further'.

The WHO report was aware that 'headline health system indicators show Libya's human resources and level of health service delivery to be in line with that of MENA peers'.

However the report stressed that 'the number of health professionals varies considerably across Shabiat, from 6.3 doctors per 10000 in Jdabay to 28.5 per 10000 in Ben Ghazi and from 19.4 nurses per 10000 in Misrata to 275.8 per 10000 in Ghat'. This variation, the report concludes 'stems from the absence of central guidelines on correct ratios or control over appointment'.

With regard to quality as opposed to quantity, the WHO report says that 'medical education in Libya has expanded massively, placing enormous pressure on scarce resources, with an ensuing decline in quality'.

At present (2007) Libya has 15,000 students in medical faculties, compared to just 9000 practicing doctors, and a total population of around 6 million'.

Hence with regards to the issue of producing quality doctors, the UN report concludes that Libya, 'simply does not need to educate this many doctors'.

At the same time, there is a major lack of other health workers - pharmacists, medical technicians and trained paramedics'.

Furthermore, regarding Libya's education and training of medics, the report goes on to

say that 'the expansive funding of Libyan doctors perusing post-graduate specializations abroad has also been inefficient, as Libya has not derived from their skill. Faced with low salaries, they have chosen to make their careers abroad and Libya has been forced to import expensive foreigners to replace them'.

Finally, the United Nations WHO report concludes that despite the expenditure on overseas education and the numbers of doctors that the Libyan system produces, 'Libya still finds itself lacking in specialists in a number of key areas such as anesthesia, cardiology and radiology, despite enormous number of medical students, and the funds spent on scholarships for doctors to specialize abroad'.

Continued on page 7

## The Pope's Infallibility And Other Tall Tales

By Ramzy Baroud

"Gaza is not on the Pope's itinerary, nor will it be. There will be no change in these plans. But I'll say it very clearly, the Pope is absolutely not going to Gaza."

Such were the astounding comments made by the Pope's spokesman in Israel, Wadie Abunasser, prior to Pope Benedict XVI visiting Palestine and Israel.

As if there was no massacre in Gaza, no families entirely slaughtered, no human rights violated to match the record of the most grisly of crimes in modern history. As if Gaza were a mere irritant in the annals of human suffering. More, as if there were no Catholic flock in Gaza. To clarify, there are actually nearly 2,000 Catholics in Gaza, apparently not important enough for the 'cut'.

Now, there are a lot of important religious sites to see around the Holy Land, lots of old churches, stones, ruins and the like... sites of much more significance, such as the Western Wall, the Holy Sepulcher and so on... far more important than visiting the site of a fresh massacre, where the stench of rotting bodies - laid to rest beneath a tomb consisting of the rubble of their own homes - has just faded.

Such sites are apparently of little import to the Holy See. Rather, there are memorials to victims of greater standing, in shrines of superior grandeur, such as Yad Vashem... now, that's something to see. On a trip that was apparently dedicated to promoting "reconciliation", it is baffling that Pope Benedict made little mention of the Israeli occupation of Palestine as a source of discord. Imagine that.

But what he did say was, "Allow me to make this appeal to all the peoples of these lands: No more bloodshed! No more fighting! No more terrorism! No more war! Instead let us break the vicious circle of violence."

As if he was imploring two nations with common grievances, with mutually strong armies and nuclear arsenals. As if he were exhorting two peoples, both of which have access to clean water, both of which are properly nourished and educated.

Or to put it in another way, as if both peoples face the daily threat of their house being toppled while they are held up inside by an occupying army, as if both peoples face the daily threat of arrest, extra-judicial execution, the humiliation of curfews and checkpoints.

The Vatican needs some serious introspection. It ought to replace its highly politicised and, frankly,

*"The Pope should apologize to Palestinians and to Gazans in particular for failing to appreciate the seriousness of their plight, for coying up to the very Israeli leaders who champion the suffering in Gaza, and fail to console the very victim of their onslaught."*

*"When at the Notre Dame Center in Jerusalem, the Palestinian Authority's chief Islamic judge, Sheikh Tayseer Rajab Tamimi, declared that Israelis had killed innocent women and children in Gaza, the Pope stood up and in an act of defiance, walked out. Now that's courage."*

*"But the Pope has proven fallible, after all."*

questionable apologies, with an earnest apology to oppressed people, who might have little political worth.

The Pope should apologise to Palestinians and to Gazans in particular for failing to appreciate the seriousness of their plight, for coying up to the very Israeli leaders who champion the suffering in Gaza, and fail to console the very victim of their onslaught.

More, as an institution that has garnered the reputation of advocating social justice throughout the world in recent years, the Catholic Church must abandon its current course, cowering before Israeli leaders, its Holy Father imparting such smug condescension on a nation that has endured a slow and gradual process of genocide for the past six decades.

Wishy-washy is the term that comes to mind. While he never wavered from condemning the "godless nation" that carried out the Holocaust, his references to Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine were so indistinct, that it was difficult to make any clear separation between the aggressor and the victim.

As he witnessed with his own eyes the monstrosity of the Apartheid Wall, his comments were painfully elusive, "How earnestly we pray for an end to the hostilities that have caused this wall to be built." Oh really? Is this all the Holy Father has to say?

Continued on page 7



Mohammad Zawawi's cartoon published by Finance and Business weekly, 15 May 2009.

## The Pope's Infallibility And Other Tall Tales

Continued from Page 6

Never mind occupation. Never mind hunger. Never mind randomly closing schools for months on end and denying an entire nation the right to education.

But now we are talking about illegal weapons being used on civilian populations in Gaza. Now we are talking about a wall that has been declared "illegal" by the International Court of Justice.

There is simply no time or place here for indecisiveness and moral flexibility.

And it is completely unacceptable for anyone to have the 'audacity' to urge Palestinian youth not to allow, as the Holy Father stated, "the loss of life and the destruction you have witnessed to arouse bitterness or resentment in your hearts".

More, when making a stop at Aida Refugee Camp, he blamed the plight of

the displaced population on "the turmoil that has afflicted this land for decades." It would have been far more favorable for him to stay home and not insult these sites of misery at all.

But in the end, the Pope finally was able to muster up some courage and took one truly audacious stand: When at the Notre Dame Center in Jerusalem, the Palestinian Authority's chief Islamic judge, Sheikh Tayseer Rajab Tamimi, declared that Israelis had killed innocent women and children in Gaza, the Pope stood up and in an act of defiance, walked out. Now that's courage.

The Palestinians, and millions of people around the world, expected more from a person who should be advocating the New Testament teaching: "let justice flow like a river and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

## Quality in Health Care is Urgently Needed in Libya

This equally applies to the area of nursing as the report concludes that 'the standard of nursing care of Libya is also inadequate due to poor quality nursing education. Nursing practice is dependent on expatriate staffing. Most qualified nursing staff is not

But the Pope has proven fallible, after all.

Ramzy Baroud ([www.ramzybaroud.net](http://www.ramzybaroud.net)) is an author and editor of *PalestineChronicle.com*. His work has been published in many newspapers, journals and anthologies around the world. His latest book is, "The Second Palestinian Intifada: A Chronicle of a People's Struggle" (Pluto Press, London).

Libyan. Libya remains dependent on expansive foreign nurses for almost all quality and specialized nursing care, and for midwifery.'

In conclusion, it is quite clear from this authoritative and respected UN WHO report that Libya needs to seriously reform its health sector. Libya must move on to modern up to date qualitative indicators of performance and assessment.

It is not a matter of the volume of doctors or hospitals - but the quality of all round health care that the system delivers to the average Libyan citizen that counts. As the UN report indicated, Libya needs to work on its health policy with regards to the quality of education, the average spend per student, the number of doctors that graduate and their salaries.

Sami Zaptia - [www.knowlibya.net](http://www.knowlibya.net)

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## African Finance Ministers Meet to Meet in Cairo in June

African ministers of finance, planning and economic development will meet in Cairo, Egypt from June 6 to 7, to discuss measures for dealing with the global economic crisis.

The discussions are part of the 2009 Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The conference will be preceded by a meeting of the Committee of Experts to be held from June 2 to 5 in the same location.

The theme of this year's meetings is: Enhancing the effectiveness of fiscal policy for domestic resources mobilization, said a press release from the ECA. The theme of the conference is both timely and significant as external resource flows to Africa, official development assistance, remittances and foreign direct investments, have been declining in the aftermath of the recent global economic and financial crisis, the press release added.

The ministers will be discussing short, medium and long-term measures that African countries need to take in order to weather the current global financial and economic crisis. The

conference will adopt a joint African position on other important economic issues, such as the ongoing reform of the international financial architecture.

A common policy position in the form of a ministerial statement will be adopted at the end of the meeting which will serve as a basis for action in meeting the challenge of mobilizing adequate resources for Africa's development.

The theme of the conference builds on other recent high level international discussions focusing on the global financial and economic crises, such as the conference on Africa's growth challenges jointly organized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Government of Tanzania; the G20 Summit in London in April; and the Spring Meetings of the IMF/World Bank; in order to reach consensus on Africa's contribution to ongoing global efforts to address the crisis.

This is the second time that the AU and ECA are holding joint meetings, following the first joint meetings held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia last year.

The joint meetings provide a streamlined and coherent arrangement for bringing the relevant Ministers together and a framework for strengthened collaboration between the AU and the ECA.

## Oil prices fall after spike above \$62

Oil traded lower on Thursday as investors cashed in profits after an overnight rally that pushed prices above 62 dollars, traders said.

New York's main futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in July, fell 1.32 dollars to 60.72 dollars a barrel.

Brent North Sea crude for July delivery shed 1.29 dollars to 59.30 dollars.

Prices for the New York contract rocketed to six-month highs of 62.26 dollars on Wednesday after data showed a fall in key US oil inventories.

US crude reserves tumbled 2.1 million barrels in the week ending May 15, far more than market expectations for a 700,000 barrel drop.

This indicated that energy demand was holding firm despite a deep recession in the United States, the world's biggest economy and the largest oil consumer.

"There was plenty of bullish (price supportive) data in the inventory report to cause oil to get to such a high level," said Victor Shum, senior principal at energy consultancy Purvin and Gertz.

Shum said the upcoming summer vacation period when Americans traditionally hit the roads in vast numbers, pushing up demand for gasoline (petrol), would further strengthen oil prices.

"We can expect ongoing price strength for the remainder of the week and might see even stronger prices ... on Friday," he said.

At the start of the week, prices



Nigerian rebel

touched six-month highs thanks to buoyant stock markets that signalled increased optimism for economic recovery, traders said.

Unrest in oil producer Nigeria also added to upward price pressure.

The recent price jump is "impressive given the severity of the downturn in global industrial production," said Ed Yardeni, chief investment strategist at Yardeni Research.

"It suggests that oil traders are expecting that once the global economy recovers, supplies will tighten up quickly relative to demand. In other words, it will be back to the future."

"If so, then the price could rebound back toward 100 dollars a barrel in this scenario," Yardeni said. AFP

## Wastewater to See Fastest Growth in Middle East Water Market

According to a recently published report by Global Water Intelligence on the Middle East Water market the Middle East region is about to see a remarkable surge of investment into wastewater reuse.

It is predicted that total capital expenditure on wastewater will grow from US\$5.3bn in 2009 to US\$13.3 by 2016. This is good news for the private sector.

It is forecasted that over the next eight years private operators will enjoy average growth rates of 20% per annum.

Along with the opportunities on offer there are a number of legacy challenges being faced by the current wastewater infrastructure.

In countries including Bahrain and Saudi Arabia less than 10% of the cost of water delivery and production are covered by tariffs. Maintenance has often been neglected and leakage rates are very high, and certain treatment facilities have ceased to operate as investment has been put into newer larger projects.

From 14 - 17 June 2009 IQPC, a global provider of tailored, industry-driven conferences, will be hosting WastewaterTech 2009.

This is an important four-day event focusing on the development of effective and profitable wastewater infrastructure, as well as covering practical and policy issues in safe treatment and sustainable reuse.

The event will be officially

inaugurated by the UAE Minister for Environment & Water, H.E. Dr. Rashid Ahmad Bin Fahad, on the first day of the main conference, Monday 15 June 2009.

James Plotnek, Conference Director for WastewaterTech 2009, says, "This is a critical time for the key decision makers in the region to come together and examine the major issues faced by the wastewater sector. By understanding the opportunities for change it will help achieve a sustainable future for the Middle East water sector."

WastewaterTech 2009 will feature speakers from Abu Dhabi's Environment Agency, Regulation & Supervision Bureau and the Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company, as well as Dubai Municipality, the Government of Ajman and the Saudi Arabia Council of Engineers.

They will be joined on the agenda by a host of international experts in wastewater from the private sector.

At the main conference on 15 and 16 June 2009 attendees can immerse themselves in two full days of presentations and case studies from senior local and international speakers, as well as interactive discussions on crucial issues.

Accompanying the conference on 14 and 17 June are four half-day workshops taking an in-depth look at the critical issues of asset management, project finance, reuse, and the use of wetlands as a solution to wastewater.

## Libya March Inflation Rises to 5.9 pct

Libya's inflation had risen to 5.9 percent in March year-on-year from 5.1 percent in February but lower than 6.4 percent in January, official figures showed on Thursday.

Libya's inflation fell sharply compared to the first three months of last year when the annual rate was 11.2 percent in March, 13.4 percent in February and 10.8 percent in January, according to the Central Bank data.

The Bank gave no details on the

factors behind the inflation easing in the first period compared to the same quarter in 2008 but government and private economists say the inflation fell on lower foods prices which account for about third of the inflation gauge.

Economists say higher imported foods prices caused inflation to spike to 10.4 percent in 2008 from 6.2 percent in 2007 and 1.4 percent in the previous year. Reuters

## Iraq to slap foreign oil firms with 35% corporate tax

Iraq's cabinet has approved a bill that will slap foreign oil firms with a minimum 35 percent corporate tax in a bid to boost revenues, government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said on Wednesday.

"The Council of Ministers decided to approve the draft law on income tax on foreign oil companies based on the provisions of two constitutional articles," he said in a statement.

"It takes into account the recommendation of the State Consultative Council to add an article for the income tax law of 1982 of not less than 35 percent."

"This agreement on the draft law will guarantee Iraq's rights in imposing taxes on companies contracted to extract oil, and it will ensure that these taxes will be used for the national income," Dabbagh said.

"The oil ministry presented this draft law in order to be approved, because this will support the national economy," he added.

Foreign corporations operating in Iraq currently pay a flat tax rate of 15 percent, according to the finance ministry's general commission for taxes.

The draft law will require parliamentary approval.

Oil prices have dropped from above 145 dollars a barrel in March 2008 and are now fluctuating at around 60 dollars, putting huge pressure on Iraq's budget which derives 90 percent of its revenues from the energy sector.

In April, Iraq approved a revised 58.9-billion-dollar budget for 2009, after billions were wiped off spending plans because of the sharp fall in oil prices.

Iraq hopes to be able to pump six million barrels per day, up from its current stated output of around 2.2 million bpd, within the next four to five years as new

## PAVA Develops Partnership with a South-Korean Bakery Manufacturer

Recently, a major Russian grain processor PAVA has announced its plans to further strengthen the export business and diversify the list of overseas customers. One of the latest achievements seen in this area is launching active co-operation with a large South-Korean manufacturer of bakery and pastry.

The South-Korean partner has shown high interest and substantial approach to co-operation, organizing a visit to one of PAVA's mills in Achinsk.

There, the delegation had an opportunity to follow the entire flour production process, from processing through to packaging.

The South-Korean manufacturer was

satisfied with the results of the visit, and the talks resulted in signing a contract with PAVA for shipping a trial consignment of high-grade flour.

Apart from prime quality of flour made of ecologically pure grain, one of the benefits which helps the Altay grain processor to attract an increasing number of overseas clients, is the company's ability to fulfill individual customer requirements.

This regards the quality parameters of flour, as well as developing a special package with enhanced durability. An important advantage is geographical proximity to the Eastern sea-ports which improves logistics and ensures competitive pricing. afp

## ADVERTISE IN THE TRIPOLI POST



Embassy of the United States  
Tripoli, Libya

### Customs and Shipping Supervisor

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 09-0021

NOTE: All applicants who are not the Family Members of USG employees officially assigned to post and under Chief of Mission Authority must be a Libyan Citizen to be eligible for consideration.

OPENTO: All Interested Candidates

POSITION: Customs and Shipping Supervisor

OPENING DATE: May 20th, 2009

CLOSING DATE: June 05th, 2009

WORK HOURS: Full-time; 40 hours/week

The United States Embassy in Tripoli is seeking an individual for the full time (40 hours/week) position of Customs and Shipping Supervisor.

BASIC FUNCTION OF THE POSITION:

Responsible for facilitating the shipment of official property, equipment and personal effects for the U.S. Mission. Tracks shipments route from U.S. Dispatch Agents, the European Logistical Support Office (ELSO), the American Embassy in Tunis, or other shipping sources; and notifies the General Services Officer and/or the Management Officer of their status. Expedites customs clearances or other approvals from Government of Libya for the official USG shipments and US citizen personnel assigned to Libya. Oversees the expedited arrival and departure of USG personnel traveling on official orders into/from Libya.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Completion of secondary school is required.
- Two to four years of progressively responsible experience in transportation, customs clearance, shipping, or a closely related field. One year of supervisory management experience is required.
- Level III (good working knowledge) reading, writing and speaking English language is required. Level IV Level (Fluent) reading, writing and speaking Arabic language is required.
- A detailed knowledge of Libyan Customs, immigration, protocol and transportation requirements. Must be familiar with the basic concepts of customs clearances, shipping and transportation. A good working knowledge of regional and local shipping and transport companies capabilities and quality of work is highly desirable. Good working familiarity with MS Word, Excel and Outlook is required.
- Must be able to tactfully deal with customs protocol personnel in order to affect the rapid clearance of shipments with a minimum of difficulty. Must also be able to establish and maintain an effective network among shipping companies. Should also have the requisite driving skills in order to operate official vehicles.

TO APPLY: Interested applicants for this position must submit their resume before June 05th, 2009 to:

Human Resources Office  
United States Embassy

EMAIL: Tripoli\_Jobs@State.Gov

Our website [http://tripoli.usmission.gov/job\\_opportunities.html](http://tripoli.usmission.gov/job_opportunities.html) provides details of job requirements as well as application instructions. Please check back frequently as new positions will continue to be added.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SENIOR HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATOR



Wintershall Libya invites applications for the post of Senior Human Resource Administrator at our Tripoli offices.

#### MAIN AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The main purpose of this job is to deal with recruitment, delegation and performance management. Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- \* Plan recruitment activities in the most effective way
- \* Prepare contracts for new hires and maintain contractual information for renewals
- \* Ensure that job descriptions, job specifications and organization charts are periodically reviewed and updated
- \* Take responsibility for the delegation of national staff to other Wintershall Operating Companies
- \* Assist with the development and administration of the performance management system
- \* Assist in the administration of all annual bonus payments for national staff, prepare promotion, salary increase and bonus letters.

#### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- \* Libyan national
- \* Degree in Human Resources or Business Administration or equivalent discipline
- \* At least 2 years of related experience
- \* Assertive, well organized, friendly and enthusiastic, with excellent communication skills
- \* Results oriented individual who values teamwork and taking initiatives
- \* Fluent written and spoken Arabic and English
- \* Strong computer skills in particular Excel and Word

#### APPLICATION

To apply for this position please send your CV in English to [jobs.libya@wintershall.com](mailto:jobs.libya@wintershall.com). Please note that you should state the position you are applying for in the subject line of your email. Closing date for applications is June 03, 2009.

Unfortunately we will not be able to acknowledge applications, but will contact those selected for interview directly.

Wintershall is a subsidiary of BASF AG, the largest chemical company in the world, and has been active in the exploration and production of oil and gas in Libya since 1958. Our main office is located in Tripoli and our production facilities are located near Jakhira.

# Filipino Muslims in Libya Establish Consultative Council Aiming at Bringing Filipinos Together

The Filipino Muslim Consultative Council (FMCC) held its induction ceremony for its second set of officers on 17 April 2009 at the Al-Sharq Hall, Tripoli. This occasion marked another important event in the history of Filipinos in this oil-rich and friendly country, the Great Socialist People's Arab Jamahiriyya (GSPALJ).

Its first induction of officers was on 16 July 2006 by no less than the President of the Republic of the Philippines, H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during her state visit to Libya.

The affair was attended by the Ambassadors of some ASEAN countries in Libya, members of the diplomatic corps, businessmen, World Islamic Call Society (WICS) representatives, Libyan friends, other expatriates, and leaders of the Filipino community in Libya.

Hon. Nasser S. Mustafa, Philippine Labor Attaché was designated representative of the Philippine Ambassador to Libya, H.E. Alejandro Agustin Vicente, who was then in Morocco to present his credentials as non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (AEP) to Morocco.

In his message read by Labatt Mustafa, the Ambassador said that "Mindanao is a land of peace-loving people - just like the rest of the Philippines - whose one desire is unity, harmony, peace and progress." He exhorted the officers and members to do their part in helping achieve these ends.

The event showcased the colorful, artistic and diversified culture of Muslims in Mindanao. The attendees were in a festive mood throughout the program, mostly during the cultural presentations. They enjoyed the Filipino delicacies as well.

The new set of officers are: Atty. Haznor L. Mangondaya (Chairman), Dr. Abdelmunir H. Sarail (Vice Chairman), Ustadj Abdul Aziz Ating (Secretary General), Hadja Aisah "Ricon" M. Ampuan (Treasurer) and Mr. Mohammad Tahir Jamail (Auditor).

The tribes' representatives are: Mr. Mohaimen B. Paniorotan, Mr. Abdulkader Dalama, Mr. Ali Diahing, Mr. Sahraman Abdullah, Mr. Numaz Usman, Mr. Ammar Abdussalam, Mr.



The Council Members

Abdulmubin Dalun and Ms. Maria Alethea R. Nabo.

The advisers are: Mr. Samalio D. Ayaon, Ms. Nadjefah A. Mangondaya, Mr. Hakim Jajimin, Ustadj Awal Ajanti, Mr. Ali Mariwa, Mr. Salongga Ombra and Mr. Mabussin Mariwa. The over-all adviser is Hon. Nasser S. Mustafa.

FMCC was organized by Labatt Mustafa, on instructions from the former Philippine Ambassador to Libya, H.E. Bayani V. Mangibin, who dreamed of putting Mindanao on the world map through a strong and honest Muslim Mindanao monitoring group who will assist in the development of Mindanao and will also help, in case the Libyan government will need support and

assistance from the Mindanaoans who are residing in Libya.

The project was dubbed as Multi-Action Program (MAP) for Mindanao, under the slogan "Development through Mutual Consultation."

The council is composed of nine (9) Muslim Filipino tribes and the Balik Islam or new Filipino Muslims. There are thirteen (13) ethno-linguist Muslim tribes in Mindanao, but only nine (9) are represented here in Libya.

Its objectives are: to integrate and unify the Filipino Muslims in Libya regardless of tribal identity; to assist in fostering good relations between the citizens and the government of host country and of the Republic of the

Philippines; to promote and foster better relations, mutual understanding, spirit of camaraderie and fellowship among Filipino Muslims and all Filipinos in Libya regardless of tribal identity and religious affiliation; to contribute to the growth and development of Mindanao and the Filipino Muslims residing in Libya; to provide instruments for the career advancement of the Filipino Muslims, especially the graduates of the universities and colleges in Libya; to provide training programs for the Filipino Muslims employed in Libya and their dependents; and to propagate Islamic teachings and Arabic language for Filipino Muslims in Libya and their dependents.

# OIC Explores Role in Peace Keeping

Foreign ministers from Muslim countries meeting in Damascus this Saturday are slated to examine a conceptual paper on the Organisation of the Islamic Conference's (OIC) future role in maintaining peace, security and resolving conflicts in member states.

The paper sets out from the premise that the Muslim world needs to have peacekeeping troops as myriad conflicts are waged within Muslim territories, not to mention that OIC members provide the largest contribution to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces, according to

an OIC statement.

Damascus is hosting the 36th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the Member States of the OIC from May 23 to 25, under the theme "Promoting Islamic Solidarity".

The statement said the CFM would discuss a host of political issues, notably the Arab-Israeli conflict, with developments in the holy city of Al-Quds and Israel's relentless aggression against Palestinians topping the meeting's agenda.

It will also dwell on the Mideast peace process and the current situation in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights as well as the continuing Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory.

The ministers representing OIC's 57 members will also explore other major political issues, such as the situation in Iraq, and developments in Somalia in the wake of worsening security conditions and the recent outbreak of deadly clashes

on the outskirts of the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

"The unraveling developments in Sudan will also figure high on the meeting's work agenda," the statement said, adding that the foreign ministers were expected to put up a unified front vis-a-vis the International Criminal Court's move to indict Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir over his alleged involvement in Darfur war crimes.

Combating Islamophobia and the fight against the defamation of Islam will also be on the cards at the Damascus meeting.

The OIC Islamophobia Observatory will publish on the occasion its second annual report that is expected to highlight abuses perpetrated against Muslims and Islam, and feature the reality of the phenomenon of Islamophobia across the world. — BERNAMA

# Building Products Made in Libya are Focus of Libya Build Exhibition

Over 540 local and international enterprises specialising in the field of building and public works participated in the 6th International Building and Public Works show May 18-21 at the Tripoli international fair by the Secretary of the Libyan general people's committee, Dr. Baghdadi Mahmoudi.

The Secretaries of the Libyan general people's committees for industry, economy and trade, Mohamed Hawej and secretary for planning and finance Abdelhafidh Zilini, several senior Libyan officials and the heads and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Libya were present at the inauguration of this economic and industrial event.

In a speech Hawej said all the services of his department were working towards putting in place an ambitious programme aimed at producing raw materials the country was highly endowed with, adding that the show would help create job opportunities for young graduates through investment in small and medium-size projects.

Hawej said the event would help youngsters to be informed about the products of other companies and establish enterprises and investment companies in all fields, and pointed out that this edition represented a model for the consolidation of knowledge and technology transfer, to promote industry.

The Secretary of the Libyan general people's committee, Dr. Baghdadi Mahmoudi, announced at a news briefing held alongside the international building and public works show intended for Libyan and foreign investors that Libya

planned to execute several programs relative to the creation of industries of building products.

He added that in this respect the Libyan people's committee promulgated several laws concerning the development of the Libyan industry which had made building products benefit from tax-and-duty exemptions and made it possible to promote investment in the field of land.

Participants and visitors of this year's Libya Build have applauded the remarkable organization that was steered and manifested by the Fair's Organizers which made it part of its success.

The four-day exhibition which started on May 18 and ended on May 21 had recorded the participation of over five hundred and thirty companies.

The exhibition is also reported to have equally attracted a significant and a satisfactory number of professional visitors from different walks of life.

"Participants are happy as they are all making business contracts. I'm getting feedback from all the five hundred exhibitors that huge business is being made while others are getting agents for their products," said Mr. Maged Mahfoud, the Managing Director of International Exhibition Organizers.

Dr. Baghdadi added that privileges were granted, namely free plots, in exchange for the building of houses and other buildings.

He recalled that Libya recently established a fund with a capital of 20 billion Libyan dinars (1.300 Libyan dinars = 1 US dollar) intended for investors in the field of land and building



Secretary of GPC takes a tour at the fair

products, and stated that these provisions marked the beginning of the program that will soon be launched, through this fund chaired by the governor of the Central Bank of Libya.

The Libyan official said this show, which represented a prototype for information sharing and investment incentive, proved the stability of legislations in the country and constituted an instrument geared towards helping investors to develop their activities.

The massive participation of Libyans who represented the majority in this 6th show testifies to their trust in the legislations into force, in their market and in the measures and initiatives aimed at executing development projects in their country, he said.

Organised under the supervision of the Libyan General Board for Fairs, in collaboration with the Libyan Investment Development Company, this show also concerned air-conditioning, equipment and lifts. Waste water disposal and reprocessing systems, different types of doors and windows, as well as the other products used in the building sector, featured among the exhibited products.

"This indicates that the show is very successful hence makes me feel happy," he explained.

According to him, it is this exceeded number of over seventeen thousand professional visitors that has so far made this year's Libya Build Fair different from the previous ones.

However Mr. Maged was optimistic that the figures were likely to rise during

the official closing hours of the exhibition.

Realizing Libya's great potential in the field of building and construction and the positive outcome that they have so far gotten from the fair, many participants have already expressed their next year's intention to participate in the similar fair.

The trend so far shows that, each day, the participation of foreign companies from countries like Turkey, Tunisia, Malta, Italy, France, Jordan, Portugal and Thailand is increasing, hence posing a great challenge to the local Libyan companies to pull up their socks and be part of the already on going building and construction projects.

So far out of the total exhibitors, one hundred and fifty five are local companies.

"This year's Libya Build is very professional and it is nothing to compare with the last show. We are also happy that we have made business with both private and public companies," said Mr. Mohamed El-Saket, Managing Director, Silyne Libya for Water Technologies and Construction.

"The fair was good but I hope it will be bigger next year," commented Mr. Suliman Issa, General Manager of Alwakaea Company for import and exports of electrical and households who was also a participant.

Libya Build was introduced into the Libyan market in 2003. Today it has turned out to be one of the largest specialised international exhibitions in the Libyan Jamahiriya.

# Wastewater to See Fastest Growth in Middle East

According to a recently published report by Global Water Intelligence on the Middle East Water market the Middle East region is about to see a remarkable surge of investment into wastewater reuse. It is predicted that total capital expenditure on wastewater will grow from US\$5.3bn in 2009 to US\$13.3 by 2016. This is good news for the private sector. It is forecasted that over the next eight years private operators will enjoy average growth rates of 20% per annum.

Along with the opportunities on offer there are a number of legacy challenges being faced by the current wastewater infrastructure. In countries including Bahrain and Saudi Arabia less than 10% of the cost of water delivery and production are covered by tariffs.

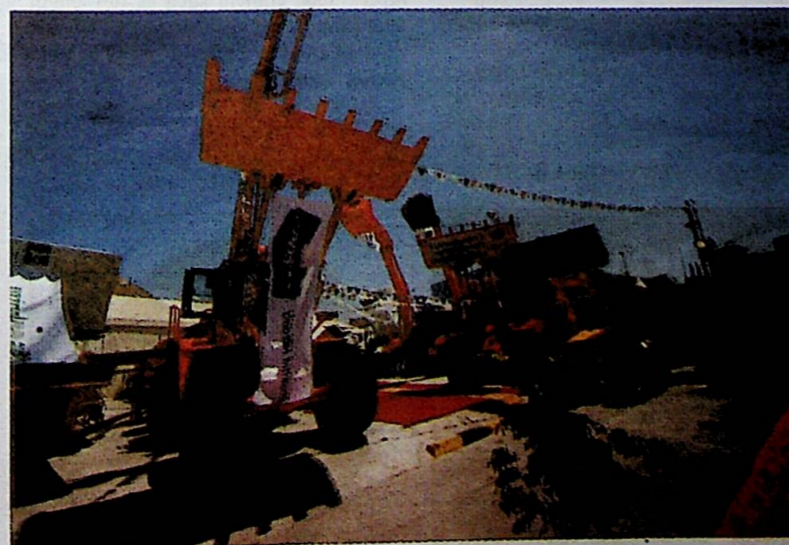
Maintenance has often been neglected and leakage rates are very high, and certain treatment facilities have ceased to operate as investment has been put into newer larger projects. From 14 - 17 June 2009 IQPC, a global provider of tailored, industry-driven conferences, will be hosting Wastewater Tech 2009.

This is an important four-day event focusing on the development of effective and profitable wastewater infrastructure, as well as covering practical and policy issues in safe treatment and sustainable reuse.

The event will be officially inaugurated by the UAE Minister for Environment & Water, H.E. Dr. Rashid Ahmad Bin Fahad, on the first day of the main conference, Monday 15 June 2009.



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## Scientists Unveil Ancient Fossilized Primate

Scientists on Tuesday unveiled the well preserved fossilized remains found in Germany of a primate from 47 million years ago that may have been a close relative of the common ancestor of monkeys, apes and people.

It is the most complete fossil primate ever found, only missing part of one leg below the knee, and could shed light on an early stage of primate evolution, the scientists said.

Norwegian paleontologist Jorn Hurum, who led a team of scientists who analyzed the fossil in the past two years, said it may resemble one of the earliest ancestors of humans but was not likely to have been a direct ancestor.

"We are not dealing with our grand-grand-grandmother but perhaps our grand-grand-grand-aunt," Jens Franzen of the Senckenberg Research Institute in Frankfurt told reporters at New York's American Museum of Natural History.

The primate, which was two feet from

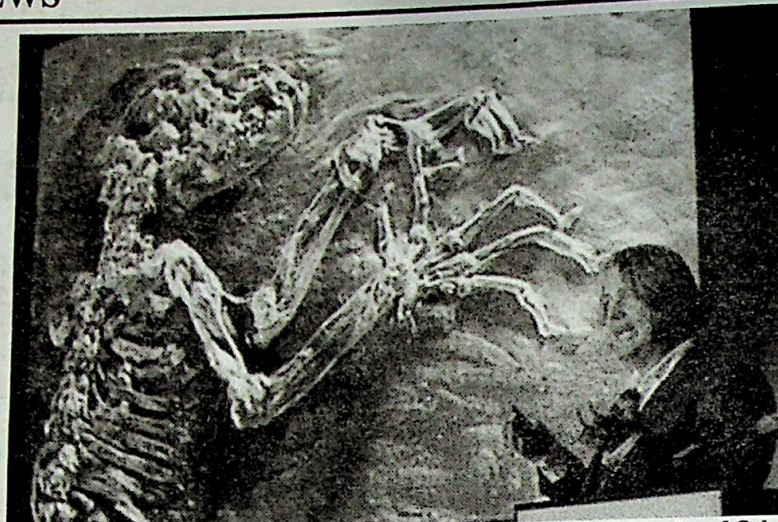
the tip of its nose to the end of its tail, was a female that died before its first birthday, Hurum said. It was called *Darvinius masillae* in honor of Charles Darwin, who advanced the theory of evolution, but nicknamed *Ida*.

The fossil was found by an amateur collector in 1983 in the world heritage listed Messel pit, a disused quarry southeast of Frankfurt where many fossils have been found.

*Ida* was kept in a private collection until it was offered for sale to Hurum and the University of Oslo in 2006.

The direct ancestors of humans "must have looked something like" *Ida*, Hurum said.

"This is the only clue we've got to what they looked like," he said. "But being cautious as scientists ... we are of course not stating that this is our direct ancestor. That's too much," Hurum added. "It's really, really hard to pinpoint who gave rise to humans at that point, but this is as good as it gets."



Jorn Hurum of the Museum of Natural History and the University of Oslo speaks next to a slide of a 47 million year old primate fossil known as "Ida" at the Museum of Natural History May 19, 2009, during a news conference where the find was unveiled. Scientists from the University of Oslo in Norway and the Senckenberg Research institute revealed the female specimen said to be the most complete fossil primate ever found.

*Ida* is linked to humans by the talus bone in her ankle which is the same shape. Scientists also said her opposable big toes and nails, not claws, confirmed she was a primate.

Scientists were able to analyze the gut

contents of *Ida*, which showed it ate seeds and leaves.

The findings were published in the Public Library of Science journal PLoS ONE. Reuters

## Indonesian Ulema Want Rules for Facebook

Muslim clerics are seeking ways to regulate online behavior in Indonesia, saying the exploding popularity of social networking sites like Facebook could encourage illicit sex.

Around 700 clerics, or imams, gathered in the world's most populous Muslim nation on Thursday were considering guidelines forbidding their followers from going online to flirt or engage in practices they believe could encourage extramarital affairs.

Inside Facebook, an independent Palo Alto, Calif.-based blog dedicated to tracking the site, says Indonesia, a nation of 235 million, was the fastest-growing country in Southeast Asia for the site in 2008, with a 645 percent increase to 831,000 users.

It is already the most visited site in

Indonesia, and with less than 0.5 percent of Indonesia's citizens wired, there is a huge potential for growth.

"The clerics think it is necessary to set an edict on virtual networking, because this online relationship could lead to lust, which is forbidden in Islam," said Nabil Haroen, a spokesman for the Lirboyo Islamic boarding school, which was hosting the event.

Though followers could still be members of the networking site, guidelines dealing with surfing the Web and Islamic values are urgently needed, he said.

"People are typically using Facebook to connect with their friends, family or learn about local and world issues and events," said Debbie Frost, a Facebook spokeswoman. "We have seen many

people and organizations use Facebook to advance a positive agenda."

Ninety percent of Indonesians are Muslim and most practice a moderate form of the faith.

An edict by the clerics would not have any legal weight. But it could be endorsed by the influential Ulema Council, which recently issued rulings against smoking and yoga. Some devout Muslims adhere to the council's rulings because ignoring a fatwa, or religious decree, is considered a sin.

Amidan, who heads the Ulema Council, said the growing number of Facebook users in Indonesia was a controversial subject among Muslim leaders and that he favored a ban because of possible sexual content.

"People using Facebook can be driven to engage in distasteful, pornographic chatting," said Amidan, who was monitoring the two-day conference in the town of Kediri, in eastern Java.

Many clerics are concerned that "inappropriate content" on Facebook could be accessed by children, said Amidan, who like many Indonesians goes by a single name.

Facebook is the top ranked site in Indonesia, ahead of search engines Yahoo and Google, according to Alexa.com, which tracks Internet traffic.

Nearly 4 percent of all Facebook visitors are from Indonesia, making it the largest source of visitors after the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Italy.

## Microsoft to Unveil New Search Engine: WSJ

Microsoft is expected to unveil a new version of its Internet search engine this week, The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday.

The newspaper said the US software giant would demonstrate its new search engine publicly for the first time at the "All Things Digital" technology conference in California next week sponsored by the Journal.

Microsoft has been testing a new search engine code-named Kumo in a bid to increase its share of the lucrative search market currently dominated by search and advertising giant Google.

Google increased its share of the US online search market in April while Yahoo! and Microsoft both lost ground, according to the latest figures from tracking firm comScore.

ComScore said that 64.2 percent of the searches conducted by Americans in April were at Google sites, up from 63.7 percent in March.

Yahoo!'s share of the search market slipped 0.1 percentage points in April to

20.4 percent while Microsoft saw its share fall by 0.1 percentage points to 8.2 percent.

The journal said Kumo is designed to cut down on the length of typical Web searches by grouping the results into categories.

A search for a particular model of car, for example, would be separated into categories like parts, used car listings, online discussion forums and videos showing the vehicle, it said.

The Journal said Microsoft planned a major advertising campaign to promote the new search engine.

The newspaper also said that Microsoft and Yahoo! were continuing talks on a potential search partnership.

It said the companies have been discussing a deal in which Yahoo! would sell its Web search and search advertising technology to Microsoft, in exchange for an up front payment and some share of the revenue of the search ads it shows on Yahoo!

## YouTube 'gets 20 hours of video' added per minute

The Google-owned video-sharing site said late Wednesday in a blog post that 20 hours of video are being uploaded to YouTube every minute.

It said that in mid-2007, six hours of video were being uploaded to the site every minute. It grew to 15 hours in January of this year and now stands at 20 hours a minute, YouTube said.

"Let's see if we can get to 24 hours -- a full day's worth of video uploaded every minute," wrote Ryan Junee, a YouTube product manager.

Google bought YouTube in 2006 for

1.65 billion dollars but the Mountain View, California-based Internet search and advertising giant has not yet managed to turn a profit with the site despite its massive global popularity.

YouTube has been gradually adding professional content such as full-length television shows and movies to its vast trove of amateur video offerings in a bid to attract advertisers.

It recently announced partnerships with Sony Pictures and other Hollywood studios and rolled out new platforms for watching television shows and movies.

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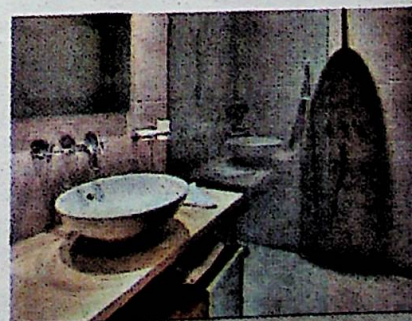
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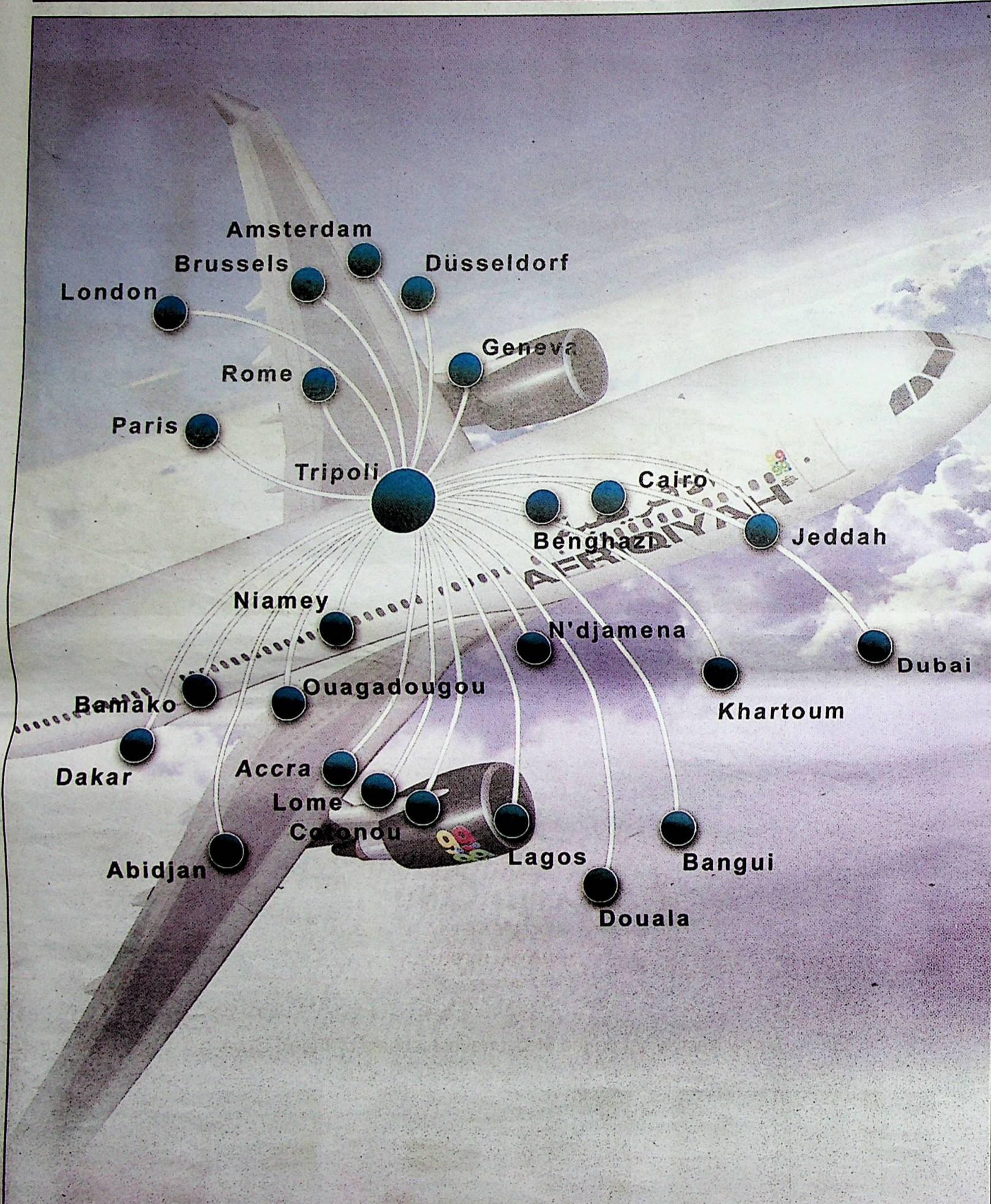
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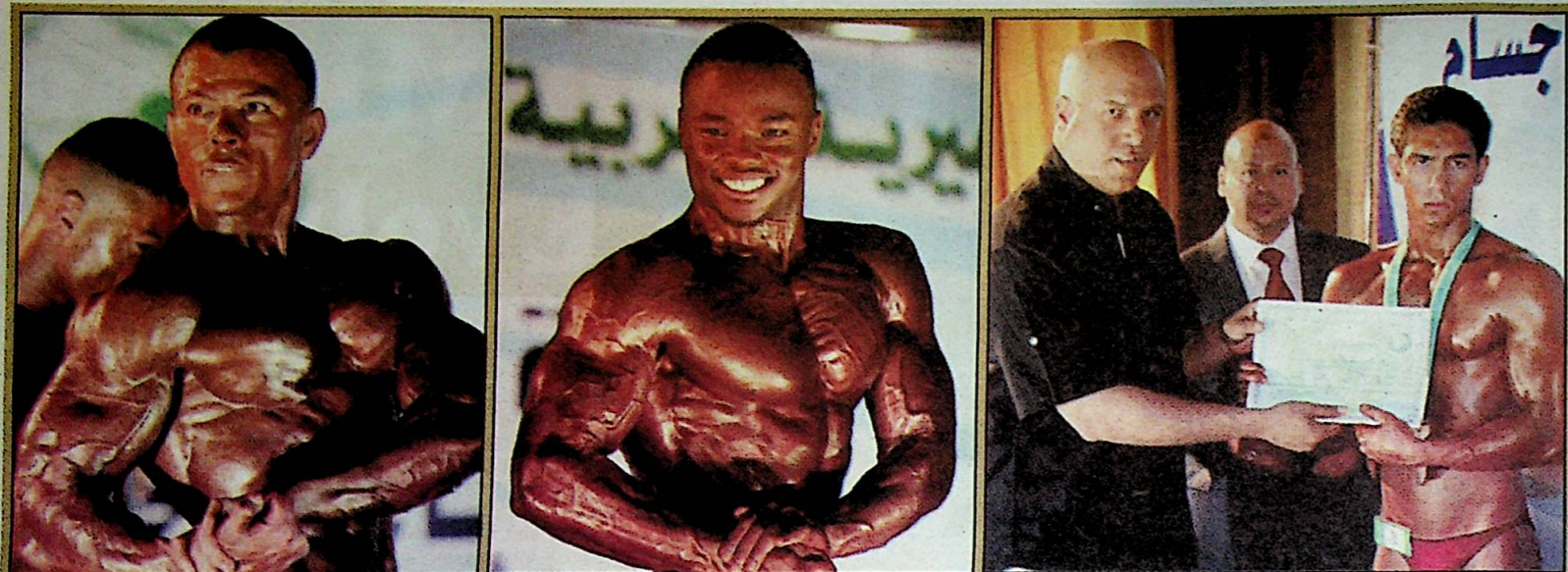
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Some of the winning bodybuilders at the Libyan Championships during posing, and the presentation ceremonies

## PSUC Best in Bodybuilding

THE Public Security Union Club were the most successful overall as their athletes won most categories individually in the recent Libyan Bodybuilding championships held at the Producers' Union Theatre in Tripoli. The event was held under the auspices of the Libyan General Federation of weightlifting and bodybuilding.

### FULL RESULTS

**Individual Events:**  
**Juniors**  
 5 kg Category  
 1. Saleh Sassi Zayed (PSUC)  
 2. Ayub Ali Aoun (Al Shomaa - Misurata)  
 3. Ahmed Alahioi (Al Ahli Benghazi)

**Over 75 kg Category**  
 1. Abdul Rauf Mohamed Bin Shaaban (Al Ahli Tripoli),  
 2. Anas Abdulmohaimen Soliman (PSUC)  
 3. Bassam Mohammed Touimi (Al Andalus)

**Adults**  
 60 kg Category  
 1. Sassi Khalil Abo Hemira (Wedad)  
 2. Ibrahim Aborima Omar PSUC  
 3. Essam Omar Alkaroni (Boukheir)

**65 kg Category**  
 1. Khalid Mkhozom Abohar (PSUC)  
 2. Mohamed Miloud Farag (PSUC)  
 3. Abdul-Hamid Abu Bakr Abdouilah (Benghazi)

**70 kg Category**  
 1. Salah Al-Din Hussein (Dali Medical team)  
 2. Omar Misbah Almloudi (PSUC)  
 3. Nasser Ibrahim Al Shredi (Al-Ahli Benghazi)

**75 kg Category**  
 1. Walid Sobhi Mahmoud (Al Nasser Ben)  
 2. Mustafa Abouhmida (PSUC)  
 3. Khalid al-Jabali (PSUC)

**80 kg Category**  
 1. Hussein bin Abdullah (PSUC)  
 2. Wahid Hassan Mohammed (Al-Ahli Tripoli)

**85 kg Category**  
 1. Adel H. Altage (Al-Wahda)  
 2. Faraj Fazzani (Boukheir)  
 3. Abdul Wahab Ali Salem (PSUC)

**90 kg Category**  
 1. Omar Juma (Al-Nasser Ben)  
 2. Mohamed Ben Sassi (Al Shomaa)  
 3. Abdurraouf Mohamed Shaaban (Ahli Tripoli)

**Over 100 kg Category**  
 1. Salah al-Din Mustafa Abofonas (Al-Wahda)  
 2. Yusuf Mohamed Al Salhien (Andalus)  
 3. AbdulKarim Issa Alshoysen (Belqisi).

**OVERALL**  
**Juniors:** 1. Public Security Union Club 2. Al Wahda Club Tripoli 3. Al Nasser Benghazi  
**Adults:** 1. PSUC 2. Al-Ahli Tripoli 3. Al Shomaa (Misuratah)



PHOTOS: YOUSEF ALAJEILI

## Top Spot Again Changes Hands

WITH Al-Ahli Tripoli involved in CAF club competitions and delaying their league commitments in the league championship, while defending champions' Al-Ittihad have been playing their matches on schedule, of late, the top position in the standings has frequently changed hands between the two.

At the end of last week Al-Ittihad's 1-0 victory over Wefaq Sabratha with a goal by Ahmed Alzowie, pushed them back ahead of their Tripoli rivals, until Tuesday that is, when Al-Ahli won their away match at Khaleej Sirte 2-0 (first half goals by Aboubaker Sado and Moham-ed Ateqane) to regain top spot.

The lead once again changed hands Thursday when Al-Ittihad once again

leapfrogged over their Al-Ahli with a 6-1 win over bottom team Al-Wehda who had tasted victory for the first time in the previous round, 1-0 over Al-Shat.

With Al-Ahli Tripoli not playing their 25th game until today, Saturday, a tough one against other Tripoli side, Al-Madina, Al-Ittihad can enjoy first position at least for two more days.

Currently, Al-Ittihad who scored through Pan Pierre Koulibaly (4 one from a penalty, Ali Khalifa Rahuma and Mohamed Zuby, have 58 points to Al-Ahli's 56 (Ahli have a game in hand).

Al-Ahli Benghazi are bound to make third position safe this weekend after defeating Alakhdar in midweek 1-0 with a goal by Anis Aladrese. The Ben-

ghazi side were still playing Friday against Al-Olombly when going to print.

**LATEST RESULTS - Day 25**  
 Al-Ittihad v Al-Wehda 6-1  
 Wefaq Sabratha v AL-Swaihili 0-0  
 Alakhdar v Al-Hilal 0-0  
 Al-Jazeera v Al-Nasser 1-0  
**Day 24**  
 Al-Ahli Benghazi v Alakhdar 1-0  
 Khaleej Sirte v Al-Ahli Tripoli 0-2  
 Wefaq Sabratha v Al-Ittihad 0-1  
 Al-Nasser v Al-Tirsana 1-0  
 Al-Jazeera v Al-Madina 1-0  
 Al-Hilal v Al-Olombly 0-1  
 Al-Swaihili v Al-Anem Alaam 1-1  
 \*Al-Ahli could only draw 0-0 their home leg 1 tie against Egypt's Haras El Hedoud in CAF's Confederation Cup.



## Basketball Training

THE Libyan Basketball Federation is doing all in its power to have a strong enough team to compete in next August's FIBA Afrobasket 2009 Championships that it will be hosting in Libya. Therefore the new American basketball coach, Kevin Nick-Ben has embarked on an intensive training programme that will also take the squad for a training camp in Turkey. Left he is seen taking the players through their paces



Triumphant Manchester United players celebrate winning of title

# Manchester United on Verge of History

After sealing their second Premier League title hat-trick, Manchester United need just one more championship to surpass rivals Liverpool in English football. Their latest title was achieved at Old Trafford last Saturday in the scoreless draw with Arsenal.

It was a tough match, but equally tough was a game six weeks ago against Aston Villa. It was deep into stoppage time in that tie that most people may have realised United were destined to win the Premier League.

They had taken an early lead at Old Trafford, trailed 2-1 with 10 minutes to go and were heading for a third straight league loss after defeats by Liverpool and Fulham.

Those two defeats, especially the 4-1 thumping Liverpool gave them at Old Trafford, raised doubts about United coping with the pressure of chasing five trophies.

Although that target proved elusive for even Alex Ferguson's side, the probability of winning the Premier League for a third successive season was rekindled in the closing minutes against Villa.

Cristiano Ronaldo equalised after 80 minutes before substitute 17-year-old Italian youngster Federico Macheda, making his debut, scored a brilliant goal to earn them a 3-2 win and re-ignite their campaign.

That win was the first of seven in a row that helped United power their way to their 18th title, equalling Liverpool's record.

Although Chelsea were top for 10 weeks between August and November and Liverpool were at the summit for seven

weeks at the turn of the year, neither could derail United's title express.

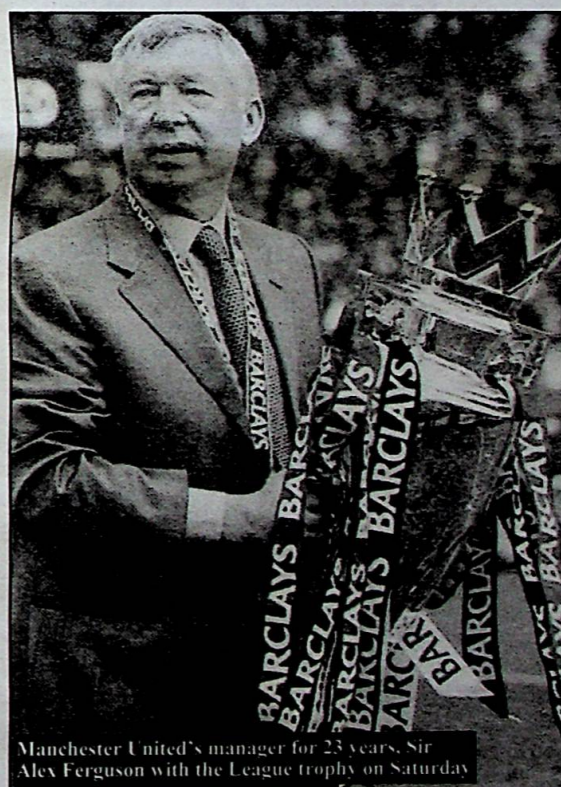
Underlying all their success of course is Ferguson, as driven now as when he first went to Old Trafford nearly 23 years ago. This is his 11th League title with United - and there is no sign yet it will be his last.

With Ferguson able to use the so-called 'Fab Four' attacking quartet of Carlos Tevez, Wayne Rooney, Dimitar Berbatov and Ronaldo, who scored a combined 71 goals in all matches, United's threat up front eventually wore down most teams.

Ronaldo did not score as many goals as last season but his deadball magic and his often overlooked work-rate have been instrumental.

After winning the Champions League last season, Ferguson said the ever-green Paul Scholes and Ryan Giggs would not feature as much this time round. However, both played significant roles in midfield, with Giggs making his 800th appearance for United this season and Scholes his 600th.

United were good in every department and if anyone did manage to get past their strong defence they then had to contend with 38-year-old Dutch keeper Edwin van



Manchester United's manager for 23 years, Sir Alex Ferguson with the League trophy on Saturday

## Club Heritage

FORMED as Newton Heath L&YR FC in 1878, the club changed its name to Manchester United in 1902. Six years later they clinched the Div. One title, then the FA Cup in 1909, and another title triumph in 1911.

Matt Busby became manager in 1945 and steered United to championship victories in 1952, 1956 and 1957. They became the first English club to compete in the European Cup reaching the semi-final, before going out to Real Madrid. Tragedy struck in 1958 when the plane carrying the team home from a European match crashed, killing eight players.

Busby survived and led his rebuilt team to an FA Cup win in 1963 and league titles in 1965 and 1967. United won the

European Cup in 1968 beating Benfica in the final - the first English club to do so. When Busby resigned in 1969, they failed to continue his glorious triumphs and United were relegated five years later.

They managed to regain their top-flight status at the first attempt and later won the FA Cup in 1977. More FA Cup success followed in 1983 and 1985. But it was United's 1990 FA Cup replay win over Crystal Palace that proved to be the springboard to becoming the force they are today.

It saved under-pressure manager Alex Ferguson from losing his job and he went on to win the European Cup Winners' Cup the season after and began their Premier League dominance with the 1993 title.

## FACTBOX:

\*Manchester United are now league champions for a record-equalling 18th time, their 11th Premier League trophy. Liverpool won the last of their 18 league titles in 1990.

\*United are the first English club to win two league title hat-tricks, a feat they last achieved between 1999-2001.

\*The other clubs to complete hat-tricks are Huddersfield Town (1924-26), Arsenal (1933-35) and Liverpool (1982-84).

\*Winning the title at Old Trafford is a rare occurrence. Of the 11 won in the Premier League era (1992-present) only once before have United clinched it at home, against Tottenham Hotspur in 1999.

\*United's Premier League dominance makes for staggering reading. In 17 seasons since the league began United have been champions 11 times, runners-up three times (1995, 1998, 2006) and have never finished lower than third (2002, 2004, 2005).

\*Alex Ferguson's side can now focus on their Champions League final against Barcelona in Rome, when they will be vying for their second consecutive domestic-European double.

\*All eyes will be on whether United can triumph again in 2010. No English club has ever won the title four years running.

won, Manchester United will be seeking to retain the European Champions League title when they face Barcelona in the final in Rome next Wednesday, May 27.

Victory over Barcelona would put the seal on a great season, and top the trophy haul of a decade ago when they won their famous Treble.

## History Favours Button...As Ferrari Hit Back at Court Ruling

WITH most teams setting their sights on winning or doing well at the Monaco Grand Prix Sunday, and Britain's Jensen Button, who has won four of the first five Formula 1 gps this season for Brawn GP, Italian team Ferrari are set on toughening their battle against FIA's decision to introduce controversial new rules next season.

Formula 1's most successful and glamorous team and champions went to the

Tribunal de Grande Instance in Paris to try and stop the FIA from pressing ahead with an optional £40 million cap. Their bid was rejected, so they hit back after a French court rejected their bid to prevent Formula One's governing body introducing controversial new rules next season.

Now they have warned in a statement they could still pursue legal action and would carry out a threat to quit if the regulations were not rewritten.

Ferrari said they were "continuing to evaluate whether or not to continue" with legal action in the civil courts while working with other teams to reach a solution to a crisis that threatens to tear the sport apart.

Former champions Renault, Toyota and Red Bull's two teams have also said they cannot enter the 2010 championship under the regulations proposed while the FIA have pointed to a large number of

would-be entrants eager to come in.

In the meantime, on the circuit, no driver in history has ever won the first four races in the season and not gone on to become champion, while only 13 times since 1950 has a driver won four of the first five races.

The British driver starts favourite once more but expects challenges from Red Bull, and to a certain extent from Ferrari, who seem to have improved on initial outings.



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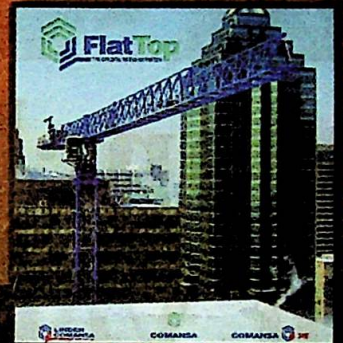
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